

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

JOSEPH MARTIN NORTON, III,

Plaintiff,

v.

WILLIAM HUTCHINGSON, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: 2:23-cv-00611-RFB-VCF

**ORDER**

On April 20, 2023, pro se plaintiff Joseph Martin Norton, III, an inmate in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections, submitted a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and applied to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF Nos. 1, 1-1). Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is incomplete because it is not on this Court's approved form and Plaintiff did not include a financial certificate and an inmate trust fund account statement for the previous six-month period. The Court will deny Plaintiff's application without prejudice and give Plaintiff the opportunity to correct these deficiencies **by June 23, 2023**.

**I. DISCUSSION**

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada must collect filing fees from parties initiating civil actions. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The fee for filing a civil-rights action is \$402, which includes the \$350 filing fee and the \$52 administrative fee. See 28 U.S.C. § 1914(b). "Any person who is unable to prepay the fees in a civil case may apply to the court for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*." Nev. Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-1. For an inmate to apply for *in forma pauperis* status, the inmate must submit **all three** of the following documents to the Court: (1) a completed **Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis for Inmate**, which is pages 1–3 of the Court's approved form, that is properly signed by the inmate twice on page 3; (2) a completed **Financial Certificate**, which is page 4 of the Court's approved form, that is properly signed by both the inmate and a prison or jail official; and (3) a copy of the **inmate's prison or jail trust fund account**

1 **statement for the previous six-month period.** See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1)–(2); Nev.  
 2 Loc. R. Prac. LSR 1-2. *In forma pauperis* status does not relieve an inmate of his or her  
 3 obligation to pay the filing fee, it just means that the inmate can pay the fee in installments.  
 4 See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b).

5 As explained above, Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is  
 6 incomplete. The Court will therefore deny Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma*  
 7 *pauperis* without prejudice and grant Plaintiff an extension of time to either pay the filing  
 8 fee or file a new fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three  
 9 required documents.

## 10 **II. CONCLUSION**

11 It is therefore ordered that the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1)  
 12 is denied without prejudice.

13 It is further ordered that Plaintiff has **until June 23, 2023**, to either pay the full \$402  
 14 filing fee or file a new fully complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* with all three  
 15 required documents: (1) a completed application with the inmate's two signatures on page  
 16 3, (2) a completed financial certificate that is signed both by the inmate and the prison or  
 17 jail official, and (3) a copy of the inmate's trust fund account statement for the previous  
 18 six-month period.

19 Plaintiff is cautioned that this action will be subject to dismissal without prejudice if  
 20 Plaintiff fails to timely comply with this order. A dismissal without prejudice allows Plaintiff  
 21 to refile the case with the Court, under a new case number, when Plaintiff can file a  
 22 complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* or pay the required filing fee.

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1 The Clerk of the Court is directed to send Plaintiff Joseph Martin Norton, III, the  
2 approved form application to proceed *in forma pauperis* for an inmate and instructions for  
3 the same and retain the complaint (ECF No. 1-1) but not file it at this time.

4 DATED THIS 24th  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ day of April 2023.

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8 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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